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Best in Australia
Red Tulip
CONTINENTAL CHOCOLATES

Hot title race by 'Big Three' may start Sydney boom

The 1966 NSW premiership competition which starts this week could produce the closest three-way race on record.

Considering all the pros and cons of the matter, we forecast APIA, Hakoah and St. George to throw out the strongest challenges for the title.

Pan Hellenic and Croatia are likely to fight for the fourth semifinal berth.

Prague and Yugal, two of the greats of the past, could well have a lean season.

South Coast, while in little danger of becoming wooden-spooners, cannot expect miracles this year while their vital team re-building takes place.

That leaves Cumberland and Corinthians to fill the last two spots on the table.

Before we go any further let us emphasise that this is purely an objective forecast which may or may not prove correct.

So we already offer our apologies to teams which will do better than we anticipate.

And now, back to the tipping business.

In assessing the chances of the various teams, we took into consideration these factors:

Players available, reserve strength, type of management, standard and availability of coaching and finance.

At the end of this we came to the conclusion that APIA and Hakoah are well in the lead with St. George a comfortable third, followed by Croatia, Pan Hellenic and Prague.

Of course, the final order may be quite different—just as last year, when a single shot decided the title.

But the tangible superiority of these three teams is hard to deny.

APIA have the stars as well as reserves and a healthy bank account to go places.

Hakoah, while perhaps a shade below APIA in individual player strength, is really a team at present in the classic sense.

St. George have an excellent first team—but lack of reserves may cause their undoing.

It is very possible that the premiership will be decided by the outcome of head-on clashes between the "Big Three."

Every point gained or lost to an adversary here counts double—and in a 10-team competition even a two or three-point lead can be deciding.

Croatia now certainly have the players to win almost any title or cup—but the question is, how long will it take them to form a solid team?

Pan Hellenic, plagued by player problems through departures, transfers and injuries may struggle to keep up with the leaders.

The others, at least on paper, seem to be out of the title race.

Prague are very considerably weakened and so are Yugal, both merely a shadow of their selves of say 1962 or 1963.

South Coast's talented young crew will certainly produce the results—but 1966 may be a trifle too soon for them.

Both Cumberland and Corinthians need more talent to remain in contention—with their present teams, all they can hope for is some shock results.

Staff photographer Les Brady captured these remarkable duel-shots at last week's Yugal v. Cumberland Federation Cup match. The picture on top shows Yugal centre forward Bobic in an acrobatic mood with a Cumberland defender trying to block his scissor-kick. The three bottom pictures, from the same match show — LEFT: Cumberland defender Addison chesting the ball away from Yugal's Pacanin (half hidden); CENTRE: Stojanovic (Yugal) and newly signed Cumberland forward Fernie, two of Sydney soccer's "granite men," clashing; RIGHT: Yugal's flying winger, "Little Bird' Alagich speeding on his merry way pursued by Addison.

ASF HITS BACK AT CHEAP VIC. CRITICISM

The office of the Australian Soccer Federation this week issued the following statement:

In an article on Page Two of "Soccer News" dated March 31 Mr. Morrie Buckner described the executive committee of the ASF as giving "a blatant exhibition of flagrant hypocrisy, inbuilt arrogance and abysmal ignorance of the rules of common justice..."

Once again we are sadly disappointed that the readers of "Soccer News" have not been presented with the true and correct facts in Mr. Buckner's article which was scurillous and without any substance whatsoever.

We are frankly amazed that "Soccer News" appears to have overlooked its most important obligation — that of presenting its readers with not only some facts but with all the facts.

Regrettably, in Mr. Buckner's article whatever facts were briefly presented have been completely distorted, in all probability to suit the attitude of his informant.

The supporters of that newspaper — their readers — have been given a false impression and it is our considered opinion that it is the duty of that newspaper, which we previously regarded as having integrity, to clarify the remarks made by Mr. Buckner.

It may be that some of the following facts were not made available by his informant although, doubtless, his readers would consider them relevant to the matters reported.

Firstly, as to the funds held by the ASF, quoted as $60,000 being used to establish licensed club premises whilst State Federations are "broke".

(Continued on page 4.)

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Strongest ever Div. II. kicks off with top class matches

— By LINCOLN WALTERS —

The most interesting and exciting second division competition ever kicks off this weekend with two Saturday and three Sunday matches.

Three teams this year have a chance of gaining promotion to first division at the end of the season.

The team that tops the table at the completion of the 18 premiership rounds will be promoted automatically and the second and third placed clubs will take part in a round-robin tournament with the first division wooden-spooner.

As the first two teams at the completion of this play-off will have first division status the following year, at least one other second division club will be promoted along with the outright winner of the premiership.

This great incentive will add as a stimulant to the competition which promises to draw record crowds and produce football very close to first division standard.

This is how we think this weekend's matches will go:

Syd. Aust. v. Bankst'n

Despite the home ground advantage, Sydney Austral will find it hard to start the season with a win.

Bankstown in the first half against Hakoah last Sunday week showed enough class to suggest they may be a force to be reckoned with this season.

And last week they confirmed this by beating St. George 2-1.

Their pace may prove too severe for their opponents, despite Sydney Austral's acquisition of Bosklopper and Erasmus from Wilhelmina but a draw is a distinct possibility as Austral have scored fine wins in trial matches.

Probable teams:

Sydney Austral: De Vries; Pronk, Rozendaal; White, Westerveld, Erasmus; Pearce, Smit, Bykerk, Bosklopper, Omeros.

Bankstown: Friedl; Turnbull, Fitzgerald; Brennan, Hinskman, Madden; Stiffle, Bamforth, Cowling, Shepherd, Hughes.

Referee: N. Anderson.

Canterb'y v. West. U.

Despite a shortage of class players at the moment, Canterbury, on their favorite hunting ground of Arlington Oval, should be too strong for Western United who are notoriously ill at ease in "away" matches.

Another great display by the dynamic Romanos is all that the Berries need to clinch their first two points of the season and get away to a good start.

Western United's defence is not as tight as Granville's and Canterbury's forwards should show out better than they did in their Federation Cup debut two weeks ago.

Canterbury: Taylor; Kirgan, Dricos; Romanos, O'Reilly, Geppert; Grap, Clark, Galbraith, Brewin, Jamieson.

Western United: Golle; Stone, Weller; Sharpe, McIntosh, Wilkins; Cooper, Melinz, Andrews, Elliott, Warrener.

Referee: K. Lockrey.

Granville v. Sutherl'd

Although Granville may have to resign themselves to playing a lesser role in second division this year, they should start the competition with a win at Macarthur Park on Saturday.

The young Sutherland team, with new coach Frank Wimmer at the helm, seems too immature to win against the experienced team Granville still is despite the loss of a few key players during the off-season.

Sutherland have always had a prolific forward-line but their defence may be hard pressed to restrict the Ambosled Magpies' scoring rate.

Granville: Pandakas; Dacovanos, Anders; Creely, Lorenzutta, Gunton; Day, Lloyd, Tran, Ambos, Jerrison.

Sutherland: Wzl; P. Gilham, J. Gilham; Moore, Shrubsole, Rattenbury; Travers, Davidson, Cucitti, Whiteman.

Referee: I. Timms.

Polonia v. Hornsby

The two ends of the scale meet here at North Sydney Oval on Sunday: Polonia, relegated from first division and Hornsby-North End, promoted from amateur ranks this year.

Polonia, favorites for automatic promotion at the end of the season, will not take their opponents lightly.

Little has been heard of Hornsby apart from the signing of fullback Doug Lapwood (ex Hakoah and Corinthians) and trial wins over Sutherland and Sydney Austral.

Loaded with Polish talent, Polonia seem set for an easy win with Krawiarz again the star.

Polonia: Owers; Filok, Cebula; Nowacki, Dzialach, Komoder; Gaik, Hajduk, Krawiarz, Adamczyk, Witczak.

Hornsby-NE: McDonald; Lapwood, Vickers; Bottrill, Booth, Chenowuth; Inglefield, Murray, Bastas, Hickey, Dickerson.

Referee: H. Eilerts.

Melita E. v. Woll. Ol.

The most attractive match of the round should draw a big crowd of Maltese supporters to Macarthur Park on Sunday.

Melita have captured the imagination of the Maltese community by making an all-out bid to gain promotion.

Wollongong Olympic, on the other hand, have been "quiet" and only bought Muhlbauer from South Coast and coach Czubala from Polonia.

In the past Wollongong Olympic nearly always had the upper hand against Melita but on Sunday we would be very surprised if the Eagles didn't win.

Jaros, Hewlett, Brown, Cosettini, Fazackerley, Cilia, Chapman and McDonald are all above second division class and may carry their team to a spectacular victory although the provincials' youthful players will fight all the way as they did against Polonia last Sunday.

Melita Eagles: Gatt; Fazackerley, Cosettini; Brown, Cilia, Jaros; McDonald, Azzopardi, Chapman, Hewlett, Calleja.

Wollongong Olympic: Delhaas; Thominey, Isedale; Russell, Harley, Semister; Large, Davidson, Egbers, Muhlbauer, Payton.

Referee: J. Gibbons.

Next week we will include all line-ups, goal-scorers and referees from this weekend's games as well as a description of each match and a preview of the next round.

APIA, POLONIA DISPLAY GREAT FORM IN FED. CUP

— By LOU GAUTIER —

All the favorites got through to the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup last weekend.

Saturday's matches were close, odd-goal affairs but on Sunday both matches produced clear-cut winners as Polonia-NS and APIA eloquently demonstrated why most experts rate them "certainties" to head their respective divisions.

History repeated itself in the Yugal v. Cumberland match as Yugal again were saved by a very doubtful penalty as was the case when they beat Cumberland 2-1 in an Ampol Cup match five weeks ago.

This is how we saw last week's matches:

SCU v. Melita Eagles 1-0 (0-0)

Although South Coast's winning goal was a lucky own goal by Melita halfback Muscat, there was no element of chance in the provincials' victory.

They were clearly the better team, had too much speed for their much older opponents and their defence easily broke up the rare Melita attacks.

Melita Eagles' defence was first class and quite up to first division standard but their forwards lacked understanding and purpose.

South Coast squandered many chances with tentative approach work but there was never any doubt they would win.

South Coast Utd.: Astill 4; Woods 3, Ringland 4; Carr 4, Harris 4, Salisbury 4; Beattie 3, Mullan 3, Stanley 3, Tolhurst 3 (N. Telfer), Patterson 3.

Coach: J. Harris. **Total:** 38.

Melita Eagles: Gatt 4; Fazackerley 4, Cossettini 4; Muscat 3, Cilia 4, Jaros 4; Brown 4, Chapman 2, Azzopardi 3, Hewlitt 3, Calleja 2.

Coach: K. Jaros. **Total:** 37

Scorer: Muscat (own goal) 78 min. for South Coast.

Referee: H. Parsons.

Yugal v. Cumberland 3-2 (0-0, 2-2)

A very even game which Cumberland could have won just as easily.

Cumberland took the lead with two quick goals late in the match and seemed headed for a win when a very harsh penalty four minutes before fulltime enabled Yugal to draw level.

Yugal were on top during extra-time and it was no surprise when Alagich, again their best forward, scored the winning goal with a great solo run.

Yugal's halfback line was not its brilliant self but Cumberland's forward-line, with the exception of Goldie, was unable to capitalize on Yugal's unexpected weakness.

It wasn't a great match but there were a few good attacking moves from both sides.

Yugal: Nezmah 3; Nacinovic 4, Rafaneli 3; Lazarevic 3, Stojanovic 4, Dunaj 3; **Alagich 5;** Bowman 2, Bobic 3, Fray 3, Pacanin 4. **Coach: F. Dunaj. Total:** 37.

Cumberland: Fisher 3; Smith 3, Addison 4; Townsend 3, Keen 4, Richardson 4; O'Neil 3, Fernie 3, Brownlie 3, Goldie 4, Hartshorne 3. **Coach:** L. Quested. **Total:** 37.

Scorers: Pacanin 56 min, Stojanovic 86 min. (penalty), Alagich 104 min. for Yugal; Richardson 67 min. and O'Neil 78 min for Yugal.

Referee: K. Lockrey.

Crowd: 1,400 (double-header).

Polonia v. Woll. Ol. 3-1 (0-1)

A high standard second division match, this game clearly showed that Polonia-NS will be the team to beat in second division this season.

Despite the absence of star players Dzialach and Adamczyk, Polonia gave a polished display which was better than anything Corinthians, Yugal, Cumberland and even South Coast showed so far this year.

Wollongong Olympic, too, gave a surprisingly good performance—much better than was expected and looked more impressive than Melita Eagles the previous day.

They opened the score and led 1-0 at halftime but once Polonia's brilliant centre-forward Krawiarz got into stride there was only one team on the field.

Krawiarz played well enough to suggest he may gain selection in the NSW team against AS Roma.

Polonia: Drewniak 3; Filok 3, Cebula 4; Oliver 4, Nowacki 4, Komoder 3; Gazik 4, Hajduk 4, **Krawiarz 5,** Adamson 3, Morgan 2. **Coach:** Nowacki. **Total:** 39.

Wollongong Olympic: Delhaas 3; Thominey 4, Russell 3; Isedale 4, Harley 3, Semister 4; Large 2, Muhlbauer 4, Egbers 3, Davidson 3, Payton 2. **Coach:** G. Czubala. **Total:** 35.

Scorers: Krawiarz 50 and 82 mins, Hajduk 67 min for Polonia; Egbers 4 min. for Wollongong Olympic.

Referee: J .Scarborough.

APIA v. Corinthians 6-1 (2-0)

Corinthians' depleted team was no match for the superb APIA goalscoring machine.

For the Ampol Cup winners it was nothing more than a relaxed "training run" as they could easily had increased the score had that been necessary.

Their inside-trio was again outstanding, compensating for the mediocre form of wingers McKinnon and Kerklaan.

It was poetic justice that Blue, Watkiss and Campana scored APIA's goals as they tore holes at will in the shaky Corinthians defence where the halfback line and goalie Griffin had poor games.

APIA's defence, on the other hand, was intractable and it took a magnificent goal from 25 yards to beat Rorke giving Corinthians a consolation goal.

This match clearly showed that APIA will take a ton of beating in the competition while Corinthians will probably struggle to avoid last place.

APIA: Rorke 4; van Blerk 4, **Nuttall 5;** Muir 3, Sambrook 4, Bottalico 3; McKinnon 2, Campana 4, **Blue 5, Watkiss 5,** Kerklaan 3. **Coach:** J. Marston. **Total:** 42.

Corinthians: Griffin 2; Dewhurst 3, Mouison 3; Maughan 2, Robinson 4, Hill 2; Clapton 2, Hart 3, Cudmore 3, Irvine 3, Stanley 3. **Coach:** F. Broome. **Total:** 30.

Scorers: Watkiss 5, 51 & 86 mins, Blue 16 & 70 mins, Campana 63 min. for APIA; Irvine 60 min for Corinthians.

Referee: H. Eilerts.

Crowd: 3,000 (double-header).

SYDNEY PROGRAM

THIS WEEKEND

SYDNEY PREMIERSHIP

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Croatia v. Cumberland	— Erskineville Oval
Hakoah v. Prague	— Wentworth Park
Sydney Austral v. Bankstown	— SCG No. 2
Canterbury v. Western United	— Arlington Oval
Granville-AEK v. Sutherland	— Macarthur Park

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

St. George v. APIA	— Hurstville Oval
Yugal v. Corinthians	— Marks Field
Polonia-NS v. Hornsby-NE	— North Sydney Oval
Melita Eagles v.Wollongong Ol.	Macarthur Park

MONDAY, APRIL 11

South Coast Utd. v. Pan Hellenic	— Woonona Oval

FEDERATION CUP

St. George v. Canterbury	— Arlington Oval 1.15 p.m.
Croatia v. Yugal	— Arlington Oval 3.00 p.m.

NEXT WEEKEND

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Cumberland v. Hakoah	— Mona Park
APIA v. Croatia	— Lambert Park
Western U. v. Sydney Austral	— Francis Park, Blackt'n
Bankstown v. Polonia-NS	— Bankstown Oval

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Prague v. South Coast Utd.	— Marks Field
Corinthians v. St. George	— Jubilee Oval, Glebe
Pan Hellenic v. Yugal	— Wentworth Park
Sutherland v. Canterbury	— Seymour Shaw Park
Wollongong Ol. v. Granville-AEK	— Balgownie Oval
Hornsby-NE v. Melita Eagles	— Pennant Hills Oval

TOP TEN LINE-UPS

CROATIA
D. COLLAZO
B. LINCOLN
P. BONHAM
R. FRASER
J. CURRY
R. BAKER
A. DOVE
E. MASSEY
F. CUSH
R. GILES
V. REYNOLDS

CUMBERLAND
J. FISHER
W. ADDISON
J. MUCILLO
J. RICHARDSON
P. KEEN
G. McPHAIL
M. O'NEIL
J. FERNIE
J. BROWNLIE
D. GOLDIE
G. HARTSHORNE

HAKOAH
P. FUZES
T. EDWARDS
I. HILLSDON
D. WALSH
A. MARNOCH
D. EDWARDS
J. HARDING
R. FEKETE
H. NINAUS
J. DUFFY
D. HOLDEN

PRAGUE
I. KELLY
G. HARCOMBE
A. FALZON
G. JONES
D. ZEMAN
P. HRNCIR
V. POVEY
N. BADARACCO
A. MORAVCIK
G. SLEIGHT
M. KVACEK

SCU
I. ASTILL
P. WOODS
A. RINGLAND
P. CARR
J. HARRIS
B. SALISBURY
P. BEATTIE
E. MULLAN
T. MULQUEENEY
N. TELFER
D. PATTERSON

PAN HELLENIC
P. RADEMACHER
D. JOHNSTON
D. WRIGHT
J. SANCHEZ
P. MALLARD
W. TAMANDL
D. LOGAN
B. SMITH
S. ACKERLEY
S. PATRINOS
J. KARYANNIS

YUGAL
B. NEMAH
I. NACINOVIC
S. RAFANELI
L. LAZAREVIC
M. STOJANOVIC
F. DUNAJ
J. ALAGICH
T. MAGYAR
S. BOBIC
S. FRAY
S. PACANIN

CORINTHIANS
D. GRIFFIN
H. NOON
M. MOULSON
W. MACARTHY
R. ROBINSON
T. HILL
T. ARNOLD
S. HART
R. CUDMORE
J. IRVINE
G. STANLEY

ST. GEORGE
M. CLARKE
H. STEGBAUER
R. HILLARY
M. SCHAEFER
P. BANICEVIC
S. ISAAC
W. TODD
J. WARREN
D. SANDELL
G. YARDLEY
V. FERNANDEZ

APIA
W. RORKE
C. VAN BLERK
G. NUTTALL
D. MUIR
J. SAMBROOK
F. BOTTALICO
G. GIACOMETTI
R. CAMPANA
A. BLUE
J. WATKISS
W. KERKLAAN

WEEKEND REFEREES

St. George v. APIA: A. Boskovic.
Croatia v. Cumberland: D. Buchan.
Hakoah v. Prague: A. R. Brown.
SCU v. Pan Hellenic: H. Parsons.
Yugal v. Corinthians: N. Jones.

HURSTVILLE HOST TO SEASON OPENING "DERBY"

BY PAUL DEAN

The 1966 competition couldn't have a more fitting beginning than a clash between the 1964 and 1965 grand finalists, St. George and APIA.

Their encounter on Sunday should draw the largest ever soccer crowd to Hurstville Oval.

As both are strong contenders for the premiership, a win to either team would have added significance.

In competition matches of the past honors were about equal between them.

However, on big occasions APIA's better nerves and superior strength usually enables them to come out on top.

St. George showed promising form against Pan Hellenic in the Federation Cup and their forward quintet is quite capable of giving the run-around to the big APIA defenders.

However, the Saints' defence is rather shaky—and this could well be an expensive luxury against the likes of Watkiss, Blue, Campana and Giacometti.

Fans may see quite a few goals in this match featuring excellent forwards and weaker defences and the final score should be pretty close to a draw.

Watch for: Young APIA half Muir quietly developing into a top-liner.

CROATIA v. CUMBERLAND

Talentwise, there is considerable disparity between these two and normally this should show in the result.

Croatia's problem from now on will be whom to drop from their team.

Also, coach Baumgartner must try and mould the many highly skilled players into a unit—something that may take time.

Cumberland are certain to adapt a direct style based on speed and fitness.

However, in Goldie, Fernie and some others they also possess players well above the average and to underestimate them would be a great folly.

Croatia's recent form has been good and with their many new "brooms" they are certain to sweep well—possibly sweeping to a good win.

Watch for: Teenage centre forward Cush in Croatia starring among the stars.

HAKOAH v. PRAGUE

The very coupling of these two names a few years ago sent a chill up your spine in expectation.

However, things have changed somewhat and the current Prague are only the very modest successors to their great predecessors.

Hakoah, on the other hand, may have their finest team ever—and that includes the side so rich in talent in the early 1960s.

This Hakoah really clicks, running with the smoothness of an expensive motor.

Prague are held together by their two midfield men, Badaracco and Sleight but lack a really solid defence or an enterprising forward line.

Frankly, there doesn't appear to be too much hope for them in this match—unless, of course, Hakoah lapse into complacency and pay the price for it.

Watch for: The elegant and constructive Duffy grafting midfield.

YUGAL v. CORINTHIANS

Last year one would have taken a bet that Yugal will win by at least four goals; this week we aren't sure that they will win at all.

While their defence is still passable, the attack is rather sick with the sole Alagich providing the speed and dash.

As so many times in the past, Yugal will try to win through the skill of their wing halves.

If Corinthians could counter that, they would be in it with a chance.

Corinthians themselves must improve their forward play to stay in contention—and like Yugal, they will find this fairly hard.

This tie is unlikely to develop into a classic—but the very evenness of the two teams could make it still an interesting match to see.

Yugal's experience may see them through though Corinthians could snatch a point.

Watch for: Fray settling down to what may be a promising career in Yugal.

SOUTH COAST v. PAN HELLENIC

Both teams have problems and it may take them some time to find their best team.

South Coast's defence is solid as ever and Carr at right half has filled admirably the gap left by Kelly's departure.

Their forwards have tons of talent—but little consistency as yet, so those elusive goals will not come from them regularly.

Pan Hellenic, with new forward Ernie Ackerley and perhaps some of the injured stalwarts back on deck (Karyannis, Tamandl) to join Smith, have a formidable attack.

Sanchez and Patrinos in midfield are also strong points—but the immediate defensive posts need to be tightened.

Woonona fans, plus those taking the pleasant drive down from Sydney, are sure to see an exciting, fast, action-packed match by two teams that are incapable of loafing.

Pan Hellenic seem slightly more compact and we would be surprised if they returned home without at least one of the points.

Watch for: Brian Smith fast getting back to his top form.

WRITERS' CHOICES

We have asked the leading soccer writers of the Sydney newspapers for their forecast of this year's semifinalists — here they are:

Franks Roberts ("Telegraph") — 1 APIA, 2 St. George, 3 Croatia, 4 Hakoah.

Phil Wilkins ("SM-Herald") — 1 APIA, 2 Hakoah, 3 St. George, 4 Croatia.

Lance Robinson ("Telegraph") — 1 APIA, 2 Hakoah, 3 Croatia, 4 St. George.

Martin Royal (ABC) — 1 Croatia, 2 APIA, 3 Hakoah, 4 St. George.

Jim Pomfrett ("Sun") — 1 APIA, 2 Croatia, 3 Hakoah, 4 St. George.

"Hotspur" ("Mirror") — 1 APIA, 2 Croatia, 3 St. George, 4 Hakoah.

T. Smith ("Australian") — 1 APIA, 2 Hakoah, 3 St. George, 4 Croatia.

SEMIFINALISTS OF PAST

This is the number of occasions on which the various teams have reached the NSW semifinals:

Prague and APIA 6 each, Corrimal (later S. Coast) 5, Canterbury 4, Hakoah, Auburn and Budapest 3 each, Pan Hellenic and Yugal 2 each, Bankstown and Gladesville 1 each.

Of the present 10 first division teams Croatia and Corinthians have never yet made it

(Neither has Cumberland under this name; however, both Auburn and Gladesville have before amalgamating into the present Cumberland United.)

Here are the semifinalists since 1957:

1957	1960	1963
1. Canterbury	1. Prague	1. Prague
2. Auburn	2. APIA	2. APIA
3 Bankstown	**3. Canterbury**	**3. S. Coast**
4. Gladesville	4. Auburn	4. P. Hellenic

1958	1961	1964
1. Corrimal	1. Prague	**1. APIA**
2. Canterbury	2 Canterbury	2. Budapest
3. Auburn	**3. Hakoah**	3. S. Coast
4. Prague	4. P. Hellenic	4. Prague

1959	1962	1965
1. Prague	1. Budapest	1. S. Coast
2. APIA	**2. Hakoah**	2. Budapest
3. Corrimal	3. APIA	**3. APIA**
4. Hakoah	4. Yugal	4. Yugal

Winners of Grand Finals are set in heavy type.

Prague lead the race for the most premiership honors: four times they finished first past the post.

Corrimal (later S. Coast) won it twice while Canterbury, Budapest and APIA once each.

FIVE PICK TEN – HOW MANY WRONG?

Here are the forecasts of our editorial staff for the final NSW competition table of 1966:

P. Dean: 1. APIA; 2. Hakoah; 3. St. George; 4. P. Hell; 5. Croatia; 6. Prague; 7. S. Coast; 8. Yugal; 9. Cumberland; 10. Corinthians.

L. Gautier: 1. APIA; 2. St. George; 3. Hakoah; 4. Croatia; 5. P. Hellenic; 6. Prague; 7. Yugal; 8. S. Coast; 9. Cumberland; 10. Corinthians.

E. Persen: 1. APIA; 2. Hakoah; 3 Croatia; 4 St. George; 5 P. Hellenic; 6. Prague; 7. S. Coast; 8. Yugal; 9. Corinthians; 10. Cumberland.

M. Nagy: 1. Hakoah; 2. APIA; 3. Croatia; 4 St. George; 5. P. Hellenic; 6. Prague; 7. S. Coast; 8. Corinthians; 9. Yugal; 10. Cumberland.

R. Bruce: 1. APIA; 2. St. George; 3. Hakoah; 4 Croatia; 5. P. Hellenic; 6. Prague; 7. S. Coast; 8. Yugal; 9. Cumberland; 10. Corinthians.

TIPSTERS' CORNER

THIS WEEKEND'S MATCHES	PAUL DEAN	LOU GAUTIER	EINAR PERSEN	RICK BRUCE	MARCEL NAGY	MOST FAV
Croatia v. Cumberland	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hakoah v. Prague	1	1	1	1	1	1
St. George v. APIA	2	2	2	1	1	2
Yugal v. Corinthians	1	x	x	1	1	1
South Coast v. P. Hellenic	2	2	x	1	2	2
Sydney Aust. v. Bankstown	2	x	2	2	2	2
Canterbury v. Western U.	1	1	1	1	1	1
Granville v. Sutherland	1	1	1	1	1	1
Polonia v. Hornsby-NE	1	1	1	1	1	1
Melita Eagles v. Woll. Ol.	1	1	x	2	1	1

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Inter Suburban League results. teams, scorers

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

First Division: Artarmon v. Concordia 0-2 3-1; Thistle v. Manly 2-4 1-3; Nth. Bankstown v. Belmore 3-1 2-4; Marconi v. Sth. Sydney 4-1 5-0; Wenty Waratah v. Lane Cove 4-1 1-0.

Second Division: Padstow RSL v. Ryde 1-10 4-2; East Sydney Atlantic v. Marrickville 3-4 0-6; Granville Kewpies v. Sydney University 0-1 3-1; University NSW v. North Sydney Inter 4-2 2-3; Lidcombe v. Auburn Juniors 2-3 0-7.

Third Division: Gymea v. Yagoona 1-3 2-2; Arncliffe Scots v. Penrith 0-1 3-2; Riverside Rapids v. W. Saints 3-3 2-0; Liverpool City v. Western Suburbs 8-2 0-9; Guildford v. Willoughby Wanderers 2-1 2-0.

Fourth Division: Blacktown Spurs v. Granville All Stars 2-6 4-2; Maroubra * v. Condell Park — 0-8; Dee Why v. East Sydney 1-2 0-2; Liverpool Inter v. Bankstown RSL 13-1 5-0.

* Maroubra's first team forfeited.

INTER SUBURBAN TABLES

FIRST DIVISION

Concordia	1	–	–	2	–	2
Marconi	1	–	–	4	1	2
W. Waratah	1	–	–	4	1	2
N. Bankstown	1	–	–	3	1	2
Manly	1	–	–	4	2	2
Thistle	–	–	1	2	4	–
Belmore	–	–	1	1	3	–
Lane Cove	–	–	1	1	4	–
S. Sydney	–	–	1	1	4	–
Artarmon	–	–	1	–	2	–

SECOND DIVISION

Syd. Uni.	1	—	—	1	—	2
Ryde	1	—	—	10	1	2
Uni. NSW	1	—	—	4	2	2
Auburn	1	—	—	3	2	2
Marrickville	1	—	—	4	3	2
E. Sydney	—	—	1	3	4	—
Lidcombe	—	—	1	2	3	—
NS Inter	—	—	1	2	4	—
Padstow RSL	—	—	1	1	10	—
Kewpies	—	—	1	—	1	—

THIRD DIVISION

Penrith	1	—	—	1	—	2
Liverpool C.	1	—	—	8	2	2
Yagoona	1	—	—	3	1	2
Guildford	1	—	—	2	1	2
Rapids	—	1	—	3	3	1
Warringah	—	1	—	3	3	1
Willoughby	—	—	1	1	2	—
Gymea	—	—	1	1	3	—
W. Suburbs	—	—	1	2	8	—
Arncliffe	—	—	1	—	1	—

FOURTH DIVISION

Liv. Inter	1	—	—	13	1	2
All Stars	1	—	—	6	2	2
E. Sydney	1	—	—	2	1	2
Dee Why	—	—	1	1	2	—
Blacktown	—	—	1	2	6	—
Bankstown	—	—	1	1	13	—
Condell Pk.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smithfield	—	—	—	—	—	—

MAROUBRA OUT

Maroubra United have withdrawn from the Inter Suburban Fourth Division because they were not able to field enough players.

Their seven junior teams have been taken over by Croatia which will sponsor junior football in the area as from this week.

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FIRST DIVISION

Bankstown Thistle: Innes, Kent, McIntyre, White, Stephenson, Cummings, Milligan, Young, Round, Prokurat, Yannik. — **Goals:** Young, Round.

Manly-Warringah United: Tuinman, Stelling, Brooks, Verrils, Jones, Langelaar, Nichols, Gee, Harris, Jones, Schofield. — **Goals:** Jones (2), Gee, Harris.

Referee: N. Anderson.

Artarmon: W. Patterson, Driscoll, Hardy, Nacinovich, Arbuckle, Hill, Munro, A. Patterson, McAlpine, Walters, Newark.

Concordia: Deak, Clevas, Cosordo, Woznica, Pokorny, Fojtlin, Mueller, K. Baumgartner, Wesely, Wagner, Gonzales. — **Goals:** Mueller, Wesely.

Referee: F. O'Connor.

Marconi: Langelaar, Naprta, Scotti, Zoratto, Seni, Rovers, Vasvari, Tonini, Armio, Pols, Morn. — **Goals:** Vasvari (2), Tonini, Pols.

South Sydney: McEwan, Coulton, Roberts, T. Ure, Slowgrowe, McDonald, Cross, Andrews, J. Ure, Francomb, Sowter. — **Goals:** Andrews.

Referee: W. Irons.

Belmore: Byrne; McMullen, Hawthorne, Keirs, Swan, Pearce, Gilbert, Boyd, Moynihan, Dwyer, Horne. **Goal:** Moynihan.

North Bankstown: line-up not available.

SECOND DIVISION

Lidcombe: Leach, Catton, Ramsay, Johnson, Benton, Rogan, McDonald, Vasic, Ovenden, Tribolet, Gibson. — **Goals:** Tribolet (2).

Auburn Juniors: Shiply, McGillivray, Crozier, Ewers, Schofield, Church, Smith, Maguire, Stevenson, Glassy, Davidson. — **Goals:** Ewers, Church, Stevenson.

Referee: K. Lockrey.

Ryde: Lee, Eastarbrook, Woolley, Morgan, Dudley, Follington, Bakaric, Udall, van der Wall, Cooper. — **Goals:** Bakaric (4), Cooper (2), van der Wall (2), Udall, Follington.

Padstow RSL: Passinisi, Street, Ferry, Cuneen, Reynolds, Fletcher, Turner, Rayner, Ryan, Kelly. — **Goal:** Kelley.

Referee: L. Smit.

Granville Kewpie: B. Twining, Armitage, Racker, Muir, Shephard, Newland, R. Twining, McHale, White, Nunn, Eady.

Sydney University: Easton, Curtis, Upton, Evans, Jobb, Harrington, Wild, Mitchell, Williamson, Gorman, Feuk.— **Goal:** Williamson.

Referee: P. Nikolas.

East Sydney Atlantic: Georgiou, Koutsouilis, Androus, Bovatsarous, Panagis, Kiriacou, Paperitis, Dimides, Grigorous, Savoulis, Manolagis. — **Goals:** Grigorous (2), Manolagis.

Marrickville: Moffit, Machin, Turner, Kelly, Gretch, McNamee, Machin, Murphy, Sererni, Hockey, Bennett. — **Goals:** Murphy (2), Sererni, Hockey.

Referee: E. Truppe.

THIRD DIVISION

Riverside Rapid: Anderson, Simmons, Kainz, Niess, Rossbach, Milausnic, Hermaini, Szafranek, Schnabel, Karlowatz, Enscelmaier.

Warringah Saints: Cardiff, Hanson, Flood, Daly, Taylor, Colman, Ambrozio, Bowman, Binfield, Johnston, Borcham.

Referee: J. Henkelman.

Arncliffe Scots: Umpbley, Warren, Stuart, Higgins, Payne, Grant, Vines, Podmore, Payne, Turner, Bardetta.

Penrith: R. Campbell, Brandies, Tomas, Harpley, Churchley, Schaeffer, Cook, Batchelor, C. Campbell, Vibert, Kennedy. — **Goal:** C. Campbell.

Referee: C. Accurso.

Liverpool City: Brown, Collier, Gemmell, Waite, Bierman, Young, Jessat, Garrett, Oliver, Harriman, Lindsay. — **Goals:** Oliver (5), Jessat, Garrett, Lindsay.

Western Suburbs: Purnell, Newby, Quill, Hinkley, Flippence, Woolley, Dunn, Bradburne, Earl, Holmes, Rae. — **Goals:** Earl (2).

Referee: A. Halls.

FOURTH DIVISION

Blackspurs: Wupper, Newell, Rush, Cuneen, Dunscombe, Bainbridge, Barry, Rankin, Cracken, Dunscombe, Lindsay. — **Goals:** Rankin, Lindsay.

Granville All Stars: Mehing, Derbyshire, Seiclun, Milton, Jansen, Robertson, Van Heck, Melinz, Jones, Buff, Bileckij. — **Goals:** Van Heck (5), Buff.

Referee: M. Buchanan.

Dee Why: Sargent, Holmes, Grant, Frazer, Campbell, Smith, Butler, Parker, Koens, Clements, Spencer. **Goal:** Butler.

East Side: Adler, Stern, Grunhard, Woollard, Wyner, Lichtner, Schiffer, Bondar, Wrublewski, Forgacs, Hauer. **Goals:** Forgacs, Hauer, Wrublewski.

Liverpool Inter: Bonadio, Praturlon, Scala I, La Macchia, Vicario, Chiandotto, Grapmanis, Ianni, Scala II, Di Felice, Fasciani. — **Goals:** Scala II (4), Fasciani (2), Ianni (2), Di Felice (2), Grapmanis (2), Lamacchia.

Bankstown RSL: Gosden, Dicks, Reynolds, Wales, Tabling, Murphy, Boularis, Sturt, Howard, Martin, Manuel. — **Goal:** Wales.

Referee: D. Buchan.

EAST & WEST CAN MEET

A heartening feature of the opening of the season in Sydney juniors has been the linking together in Association districts where individual Associations have insufficient teams to run certain competitions.

In youth age groups Easts and Wests linked up.

This will bring the best Western Suburbs clubs, APIA-Leichh'dt, Five Dock and Concord against the young aspirants for places in clubs such as Hakoah and Prague.

Bankstown have helped arrangements in Southern suburbs, and Manly, Northern Suburbs, Kuring-gai and Gladesville are combining further in under 18s and seniors.

Wests gained an entry from Balmain Police Boys Club, and a new club has sprung to life at Abbotsford, with seven teams.

Sutherland Shire, however, were a late withdrawal from the District Representative League.

DISPUTE THWARTS COVERAGE

We regret that because of the nation-wide postal dispute details of a few Inter Suburban League matches played last weekend are missing.

We will publish a full coverage of the Inter Suburban League matches as soon as the postal dispute has been settled.

THIS WEEKEND'S AMATEUR DRAW

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

First Division

Concordia v. Wenty Waratahs, Tempe Reserve; Sth. Sydney v. Nth. Bankstown, Booralee Park; Lane Cove v. Marconi, Pottery Green.

Second Division

Sydney Uni. v. Lidcombe, St.Paul's Oval; Marrickville v. Padstow RSL, Mackey Park; Auburn Juniors v. University NSW, Progress Park.

Third Division

Yagoona v. Liverpool City, O'Neil Pk.; Willoughby v. Gymea, Northbridge Oval; Warringah Saints v. Arncliffe Scots, Dee Why Oval.

Fourth Division

Condell Park v. Blacktown Spurs, Bankst'n Show Ground; East Side v. Smithfield, Queen's Park.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

First Division

Manly v. Artarmon, Graham Reserve; Belmore v. Thistle, Rudd Park.

Second Division

Ryde v. Granville Kewpies, Hall Park; NS-Inter v. East Sydney Atlantic, Anderson Park.

Third Division

Western Suburbs v. Riverside Rapids, Campbell Park; Penrith v. Guildford, Jamieson Park.

Fourth Division

Bankst'n RSL v. Dee Why, Allum Park; All Stars v. Liverpool Inter, Jones Park.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

K. O. Cup

Wenty Waratahs v. W. Saints; Marrickville v. Belmore; Manly v. Padstow RSL; Bankstown RSL v. Yagoona; Willoughby v. Ryde; Auburn Juniors v. Riverside Rapids; North Bankstown v. Granville All Stars.

CHALLENGE MATCH DRAWN 1-1

Following a challenge issued in SOCCER WORLD on March 11 by the Liverpool City under-10 team, the Caringbah Redbacks team accepted the challenge.

The game was played at Woodward Park, Liverpool, last Sunday and ended in a 1-1 draw.

Several carloads of supporters travelled to Liverpool from Caringbah to watch a first class game.

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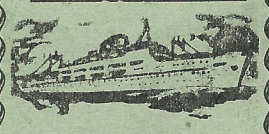

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MONDAY'S FEDERATION CUP

St. George, Croatia firm favorites

The draw for the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup (Henry Seamonds Trophy) was kind to the four teams generally considered the best in Sydney at the moment.

APIA, Hakoah, Croatia and St. George have all drawn opponents they should defeat comfortably.

On Easter Monday the latter two will strive for a berth in the semifinals at Arlington Oval.

In the early match St. George, the 1964 Federation Cup winners, will clash with Canterbury, winners in 1957 and 1958 and finalists in 1960, 1961 and 1962.

The late game promises to be a spectacular clash between old rivals Croatia and Yugal.

No miracles

Busiest player on the field on Monday will probably be the young Canterbury goalkeeper Taylor.

He faces an unenviable task against the prolific St. George forward-line which slammed six goals past the tough Pan Hellenic defence two weeks ago.

Saints seem set for another brace of goals, but luckily for Canterbury their defence is much stronger than their forwards and better equipped to face one of the first division's top teams.

From their forwards, Canterbury cannot expect miracles.

It would come as a shock if they even managed to score one goal to Mel Clarke.

Probable teams:

St. George: 1 Clarke; 2 Stegbauer, 3 Hillary; 4 Schaefer, 5 Banicevic, 6 Isaac; 7 Todd, 8 Warren, 9 Sandell, 10 Yardley, 11 Fernandez.

Canterbury: 1 Taylor; 2 Kirgan, 3 Dacovanos; 4 Romanos, 5 O'Reilly, 6 Geppart; 7 Grap, 8 Clark. 9 Galbraith, 10 Brewin, 11 Jamieson.

Croatia comfortably

The late match on Easter Monday should enable Croatia to beat their arch-rivals comfortably.

Croatia's talented forward-line may not score five goals this time but they will certainly be a big threat to Yugal's experienced halfbacks who seem to have slowed down considerbaly this year.

Dunaj and Lazarevic will have their hands full coping with Massey and Giles, the "motor" and "brains" of Croatia's attack.

Wingers Reynolds and Dove may play havoc with Yugal fullbacks Nacinovic and Rafaneli and set up many opportunities for their inside-trio.

The odds appear stacked in Croatia's favor in what should be a match between Croatia's "name" forwards and Yugal's crafty halfback trio.

Croatia's pace should win the day.

Their players are younger on the whole than Yugal's who will also have the disadvantage of having played the previous day while Croatia had a 24-hour break.

Probable teams:

Yugal: 1 Nezmah; 2 Nacinovic, 3 Rafaneli; 4 Lazarevic, 5 Stojanovic, 6 Dunaj; 7 Alagich, 8 Magyar, 9 Bobic, 10 Fray, 11 Pacanin.

Croatia: 1 Collazo; 2 Lincoln, 3 Bonham; 4 Baker, 5 Curry, 6 Fraser; 7 Dove, 8 Massey, 9 Cush, 10 Giles, 11 Reynolds.

ASF HITS BACK (Continued from Page 1.)

This can only be described as sheer fabrication.

What Mr. Buckner's informant "overlooked" to mention was that at the recent executive meeting it had been resolved that immediately after the annual general meeting a total of $32,000, including $7,000 to Victoria, will be distributed to the State Federations.

This is more than half of the available funds of the ASF.

It is correct that the ASF earned almost $20,000 from the 1965 Chelsea tour.

Mr. Buckner, however, did not mention that out of this sum $15,264 HAS ALREADY been given to State Federations, including $4754 to Victoria.

Given the facts Mr. Buckner's readers will perceive that distribution to State Federations from 1965 activities of the ASF total $47,264 of which Victoria's share is $11,764.

Irrelevant maybe to Mr. Buckner — but these facts would appear to give his remarks an entirely different aspect.

As regard to the reported "suspension" of Mr. Oliphant, following receipt from The Football Association of a serious charge against Slavia Club, once again Mr. Buckner does not properly inform his readers.

Mr. Oliphant was NOT suspended. In view of the charge against the club of which he is manager, Mr. Oliphant's nomination to the executive of the ASF was not accepted and the Victorian Federation were directed to fully investigate the matter and report their action to the ASF.

Nor was Victoria "robbed" of a vote. Mr. Theo Marmaras was empowered to exercise two votes so as to protect the representation of Victoria at the meeting.

Surely Mr. Buckner must have been aware of these relevant facts.

Finally, concerning the National League proposals, there is NO scheme to "establish a separate office in each State to run the National League" and it is regrettable that Mr. Buckner has been misinformed.

On numerous previous occasions where the above newspaper's representatives misinformed their readers regarding ASF matters, it was made quite clear that this office would be pleased to assist in establishing the correctness and accuracy of any reports made by persons unauthorised to do so.

We therefore very much regret that once again "Soccer News" has not seen fit to avail itself of our offer and verify its facts.

Signed: W. G. Walkley, President,
I.A. McAndrew, Secretary.

Two players could lift Hungaria close to top

A new series by BOB LOW pinpointing the success and failure of State League clubs over the past few years.

Melbourne — Hungaria's record in State League soccer, except for the first year, is far from impressive.

Striking a parallel with the Victorian Soccer Federation in that their first year was their best one (Melbourne finished third in the State League on winning promotion in 1960), the Hungarian-sponsored side have been struggling since then.

In the past four years they finished three times in fourth bottom position and last season slipped even further, when only Lions and Triestina stood between them and relegation.

An offshoot of the Hungarian revolution in 1956, the Melbourne-Hungaria club, predominantly Hungarian in their early State League days, are now a mixture of Polish, Dutch, Scottish and English.

Only Attila Abonyi, one of the top locally produced youngsters, is Hungarian by birth.

And Attila has played all his soccer in Australia.

So the Melbourne management, now presided over by Dental Laboratory chief F. Egry with founder member and well known Victorian official Andy Kun in the chair, cannot stand accused of lack of integration in the side.

However, it's obvious that the Melbourne sides of the past few years have lacked several attributes, including:

- Insufficient number of skilled and experienced players.
- Lack of co-ordination in the team.
- A forward line which has lacked inches and punches.
- Too much reliance placed on too few players.
- Lack of match tactics.

Stifled of course with tight purse strings like so many other clubs, Melbourne no doubt realise the shortcomings of their side.

I can reveal that quite recently the club made an all-out bid to secure the services of a well known British soccer player who still has a couple of years of playing time left and who represented one of the home countries nearly 20 times in international games.

It is not quite impossible that they could still land this player.

Summing up: Melbourne aren't all that bad. With the advent of new forwards Stoffels and Connelly they should improve on last season's results.

But they could dramatically change their fortunes if they acquired or produced two more top class players.

VICTORIAN TABLE
STATE LEAGUE

Croatia	2	—	—	7	—	4
Polonia	2	—	—	4	—	4
JUST	2	—	—	4	1	4
Alexander	2	—	—	3	1	4
Slavia	2	—	—	4	2	4
Melbourne	1	—	1	3	3	2
Geo. Cross	1	—	1	2	3	2
Hellas	—	—	2	2	4	—
Juventus	—	—	2	2	5	—
Hakoah	—	—	2	1	3	—
Lions	—	—	2	1	5	—
Wilhelmina	—	—	2	—	6	—

FIVE TEAMS ON FOUR POINTS

Alexander, newly promoted to the Victorian State League, scored their second successive win in the competition, beating Lions 2-1.

The competition lead is now held by Croatia who defeated George Cross 2-0 in a rugged match on Sunday.

Vojtek scored Croatia's first goal in the 74th minute and Bot made sure of the win in the 84th with a second goal.

The match was played at George Cross' new ground, at Sunshine.

Hellas lost 2-1 to JUST through a last minute goal by Stankovic.

Earlier Hellas scored from a hotly disputed penalty after which referee Straface was heckled by a section of the crowd.

Polonia made heavy weather of their 1-0 over improved Wilhelmina where Van Alphen made his comeback.

Polonia now occupy second place on the table, behind Croatia and ahead of JUST and Alexander.

Melbourne, after being down 0-1 almost from the kick-off, staged a grandstand finish to beat Juventus 3-1 with Conelly, Myers and Stoffels knocking out Juve.

At Middle Park, Slavia struggled hard to defeat Hakoah 2-1 in a low standard match.

McCorquodale and Savage scored for Slavia and Cook for Hakoah.

MATCHES SPREAD OVER EASTER HOLIDAY PERIOD

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

The third round of the Victorian State League is split three ways with two matches apiece on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The most exciting clash will be between Croatia and JUST (Olympic Pk., Monday), two teams in top form.

Croatia's all-action style will be in sharp contrast with JUST's cautious, composed method and the result may be very close to a draw.

Vastly improved Melbourne, even without the influence of Alan Elliott, will start favorites against Hakoah (Elsternwick Pk., Monday).

Hakoah, with two defeats under their belt, will have to fight hard to rescue even one point here.

Wilhelmina may again remain pointless in their clash with George Cross (Jubilee Park, Sunday), as the difference between the two teams is rather obvious.

Two recent losers, Hellas and Juventus will put on good entertainment (Middle Park, Sunday) but Hellas should score a comfortable win.

Slavia are set to K. O. Lions (Port Melborne, Saturday) in what could be a one-sided affair.

Also on Saturday, Polonia will face the eager-beaver Alexander in a close tussle.

While Polonia have the superior skill, Alexander possess power and penetration and will go flat out to gain at least one point.

EX-BENFICANS TO ADELAIDE

Juventus have signed ex-Benfica Lisbon player Helio dos Santos for $3600.

The Portuguese star will join Juventus together with a countryman of his, Jose Custodio.

Dos Santos, 24, played mainly on the left wing with Benfica reserves as an understudy of famous international star, Simoes.

Custodio, 30, another ex-Benfica reserve, is an inside forward and will join Juventus on a free transfer.

Both will come to Adelaide as migrants in the near future.

—Allan Crisp

S.A. SQUAD

South Australian selectors have announced the State squad for the forthcoming AS Roma clash.

The squad is:

Romanowicz, Jurawski, Typek, Kolecki (Polonia), Fedczyszyn, Mill (USC Lion), F. Balter (Budapest), F. Smith, Batchelor (Enfield C), Baggio, Perin, Rossetto, West, Herczeg, Horvath, Cruz (Juventus), Worthington, Burdett, Jaksa, Pantelis, De Lyster, Byrne, Joschke (Hellas), R. Jones (Austria).

PAXTONS

A LOW LOOK AT MELBOURNE AND ITS DOINGS

● DIVIDED LOYALTIES

This season Polonia have gambled on youth and have turned up trumps with 19-year-old Eugene Snopkowski and 20-year-old Stan Majerczak, both of whom vie for first team position.

Both Snopkowski and Majerczak are products of the Polonia nursery side, Fawkner, and both are regarded as Australians.

Everything seems rosy for these players except for one snag. Both are also accomplished Australian Rules players with bright prospects of eventually making a Victorian Football League team.

Polonia could find themselves in the same situation as Slavia a few years ago.

They had a centre forward Billy Cook (no relation to their present centre half) who used to forsake soccer occasionally for Australian Rules.

Polonia are hopeful and optimistic that when the day of decision comes Snopkowski and Majerczak will decide the round ball game offers better prospects than the Rules Football

But the possibilities exist that soccer could lose the pair of them. And that would not only be a calamity for Polonia but a decided publicity boost for Australian Rules.

● MONAN'S INJURY A BREAK FOR ROWLEY

A couple of weeks ago centre forward Bill Rowley of Hakoah was a dejected player sitting on the sidelines with little chance of getting his first team place back.

For Hakoah had bought the transfer of tall Scot Ian Monan from Lions in Adelaide.

The giant Monan who has a brother of the same height playing with Ayr United in Scotland set the Middle Park side aglow when he scored a hat-trick in his debut against SM Hellas.

That was only a few weeks ago in the night soccer series and as Hakoah narrowly missed making the semifinals, Monan has been sitting it out with his new team-mates waiting for the league program to open.

Luck wasn't with Monan, however.

In the opening league match against Alexander he collided in the air with team-mate Hughes and was carried off to hospital where it was diagnosed he had sustained a fracture of the skull, that may keep him on the sidelines for some time.

Enter Bill Rowley. Discontented sitting on the sidelines, Rowley, the top scorer in the 1965 night soccer series who had lost his form in the last year's league season, had more or less received the OK signal from Hakoah for a transfer.

But with Monan's bad luck Hakoah cannot now let Rowley go and he is back again in the first team.

If Rowley can recapture his form there will be no problem for Hakoah when Monan returns, for the "big fella" can also play at wing half and inside forward.

● SURELY IT'S JUST A JOKE

A Melbourne soccer writer who scribbles away under the name of "Linesman" really rapped JUST last week. Inferring they were lucky to win the Ampol night series and calling them "nite owls", "Linesman" predicted the Footscray side would flop under normal daylight conditions.

What a dream and what a joke!

Although JUST may not win a single trophy in 1966 one thing is certain — they won't be a flop.

The Ampol Cup winners with their ball playing technique, balance, combination and individual stars will, by the end of 1966, make "Linesman" eat his words.

Although JUST have lifted the suspensions imposed early in the Ampol Cup series on players Gakovic, Mladenovic, Fode and Circovic, the future of this quartet is anything but bright.

For with a settled team it's unlikely that these "bad boys' will be re-introduced into the side. Marko Fode the goalkeeper in fact has been placed on the open-to-transfer list, Vera Mladenovic the regular inside left is far from peak fitness while Gakovic and Cirkovic, two newcomers last season, had to content themselves with places in the JUST reserve side against Melbourne.

— BOB LOW.

FAST
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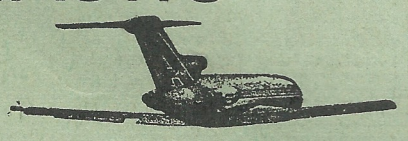

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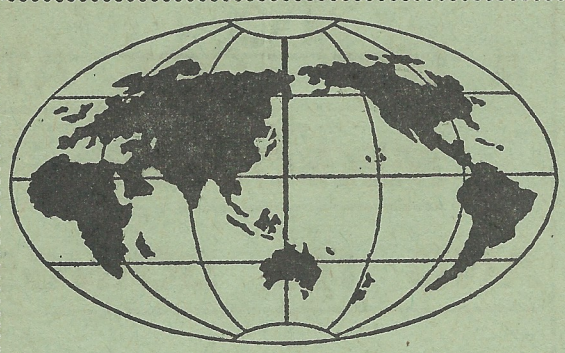

ROUND THE WORLD

NOT FAIR TO 16 ?

For next season's competition the European Fair Cities Cup entries will be limited to 32 teams, a sharp cut from the present 48. The decision was made by UEFA which considers this Cup series too unwieldy. Last year's winners were Ferencvaros of Hungary while this year Chelsea are the favorites.

THIRD CENTURY DUE

Brian Harris, the long-haired Everton star is about to make his 300th appearance for his team. Brian Labone is on the 270 mark while Derek Temple is approaching 200. And all this in a club with supposedly big player-turnover.

HOME FOR THE BRAVE

Ray Crawford, the ex-England centre forward has returned to Ipswich. He spent two unhappy years with Wolverhampton and West Bromwich Albion, never striking his true form. Crawford had joined Wolves for $100,000 and now returned to Ipswich for only $37,000.

SHEFFIELD'S GERMAN INVASION

At Hillsborough, Sheffield Wednesday's home ground, World Cup match gates are likely to be around 45,000. For the opening game between West Germany and Switzerland on July 12, the Germans have already booked 6,000 and the Swiss 1500 tickets.

BENFICA BOSS MAY GO

Bela Guttman is almost certain to leave Benfica's managership soon and retire to live in Vienna. The team's crushing defeat by Manchester United at Lisbon has touched off a minor revolt in the club. Still, Guttman, always a diplomat, had told reporters after the match: "United were absolutely great." No excuses, no ifs and buts...

ATLETICO SPANISH CHAMPIONS

Atletico Madrid last Sunday won the first division Spanish title by beating Espanol Barcelona 2-0. Real Madrid were runners-up, losing their five-year monopoly on the title.

"FRENCH LEAVE" DEPLORED

Emigrating players are giving concern to the English FA. Time and again players leave for overseas halfway through their contracts, forcing their clubs to find replacements in a hurry. The Lancashire Combination clubs have now decided to examine the problem and clamp down on players who, without very good reason, want their contracts terminated so they can go to South Africa, Australia or Canada.

The Football Association has now banked more than $2,500,000 from the advance sale of World Cup tickets. This represents about 60 per cent. of the total ticket sales potential. The organisers believe that by June all tickets will have been sold.

● Nestor Combin, the French international centre-forward, has patched up his differences with his Italian club Varese and played his first match in two and half months last weekend.

● **Chelsea reached the semifinals of the Fair Cities' Cup last week with a 1-0 win over last year's European Cup-Winners' Cup finalist Munchen 1860 at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea had drawn the match in Munich 2-2 three weeks ago.**

● Inter Milan and AC Milan have agreed to release star players Jair and Amarildo to the Brazilian World Cup squad on May 15 — one week before the completion of the Italian championship.

● **The Portuguese FA has protested to the UEFA for switching the venue of this year's European Cup Final from Lisbon to Brussels, which already staged one final, in 1958. The UEFA's reason for the switch is that admission charges can't be raised in Portugal whereas in Belgium the organisers will be able to double admission fees for the European Cup Final.**

● The dates for the European Cup semifinal between Inter Milan and Real Madrid have been changed. The matches will now be playtd at Madrid on April 13 and in Milan on April 20.

● **The Madrid evening newspaper "El Pueblo" claims that Atletico Madrid offered Helenio Herrera $200,000 for a two-year contract, starting August this year.**

● Paris' centrally-situated Parc des Princes Stadium may soon be enlarged from its present capacity of 40,000 to hold 80,000 spectators.

● **The French Federation has proposed to the UEFA to stage a Common Market Cup for the national teams of France, West Germany, Italy, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. The project, however, is unlikely to be approved as the European calendar is already too crowded.**

● Leading French referee Jose Barbaran has resigned after bitter criticism from Anderlecht who accused him of blatantly favoring Real Madrid in their recent European Cup quarterfinal clash in Madrid which the Spaniards won 4-2.

● **Wales will be without key players Rodrigues, England, Davies, Rees, Reece, Vernon and Green when they tour South America for matches against Brazil, Uruguay, Chile and Argentina next month. None of these players will be released by their English clubs.**

● The Moroccan Army beat the French Armed Forces XI 2-1 in Rabat, Morocco, in a second round match of the international World Army Championship.

● **Guarani of Paraguay and not Universidad de Chile, as reported last week, qualified for the semifinals of the South American Champions' Cup.**

● Altafini, the idol of Naples' soccer crowds, underwent a minor sinus operation.

● When Pele and his bride returned to Santos **after a four-week h oneymoon in Europe they had to pay $400 for excess luggage weight. The Peles had three suitcases filled with presents from European admirers.**

● Czech coach Sobotka, who played with Prague's Stefan Cambal in the 1934 World Cup Final in Rome, has signed a contract which will bind him with Swiss club FC Bienne until 1970. Sobotka toured Australia with his former club, FC Basel, in 1964.

● **Jose Aguas, the former Benfica centre-forward, is also a good coach. He has brought Atletico Lisbon to first division in his first season.**

● Sheffield United have invited 30 boys from Bochum, West Germany, to attend the World Cup as their guests.

● **Oswaldo Zubeldia, Argentina's coach, is convinced Argentina will become World Champions. "Argentina will win their group in England, Spain will be second and in the final Argentina wll beat England", he said.**

● Seven West German clubs have applied to enter the 1966-67 Fair Cities' Cup: Munchen 1860, Bayern Munchen, FC Nurnberg, Eintracht Frankfurt, VfB Stuttgart, Hannover '96 and FC Koln.

SIX HAMS IN THE SANDWICH

Ron Greenwood, the West Ham manager has placed on transfer six players who cannot command a place in his top team. One Greenwood let go was Joe Kirkup and Chelsea promptly signed him for an undisclosed fee.

THIS FRUGAL SCOT

Chelsea boss Tommy Docherty is not only a top soccer expert but also a clever manager of finances. Since he took over in 1961, he has spent $600,000 on players — but also sold men for a total value of $880,000.

SCOREBOARD

FAIR CITIES' CUP: Chelsea v. Munchen 1860 1-0 (London); Zaragoza (Spain) v. Dunfermline (Scotland) 4-1 (Zaragoza) — both Chelsea and Zaragoza qualify for semifinals along with Leeds and Barcelona.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v. England 3-4 (Glasgow).

AUSTRIA: LASK v. Kapfenberg 4-0; Wiener Neustadt v. Simmering 1-0; Rapid v. GAK 2-2; Vienna v. Admira 0-0; Wiener SK v. Austria Wien 0-1; Klagenfurt v. Schwechat 0-0.

GREECE: Olympiakos v. Panegialios 3-0; Egaleo v. Prodeftiki 2-1; Panathinaikos v. AEK 2-1; Apollon v. Niki 1-1; Panionios v. Trikala 3-1; Ethnikos v. Heraklis 1-0; Aris v. Panserraikos 0-0; Pierikos v. PAOK 4-1.

HOLLAND: DOS v. Telstar 2-0; Go Ahead v. PSV 3-1; Heracles v. MVV 1-0; Sparta v. Ajax 1-3; DWS v. Elinwijk 2-0; Fortuna Geelen v. Feyenoord 1-1; ADO v. Twente 4-1; GVAV v. Willem II 4-1.

ITALY: Atalanta v. Varese 1-0; Catania v. AS Roma 1-0; Fiorentina v. Bologna 1-3; Lazio v. Brescia 0-3; Milan AC v. Inter Milan 1-2; Napoli v. Foggia 1-0; Sampdoria v. Vicenza 0-0; Spal v. Cagliari 3-0; Torino v. Juventus 0-0.

PORTUGAL: Braga v. Benfica 0-0; Belenenses v. Barreirense 1-1; CUF v. Sporting Lisbon 0-0; Academica v. Beira Mar 5-0; Porto v. Lusitano 2-0; Setubal v. Leixoes 1-0; Varzim v. Guimaraes 2-0.

SWITZERLAND: Biel v. Lucerne 1-1; Grasshoppers Zurich v. FC Basel 2-2; Lausanne v. Urania Geneva 6-2; Lugano v. Young Fellows 2-0; Sion v. Zurich 1-1; Young Boys Berne v. Servette Geneva 2-3.

WEST GERMANY: Munchen 1860 v. Eintracht Braunschweig 1-1; Werder Bremen v Borussia Neunkirchen 5-2; FC Koln v. Tasmania Berlin 4-0; Meiderich SV v. Karlsruhe SC 8-2; VfB Stuttgart v. Borussia Moenchengladbach 5-0; Kaiserslautern v. Borussia Dortmund 0-0; Hannover 96 v. Hamburger SV 0-0; FC Nurnberg v. Bayern Munchen 2-2; Schalke 04 v. Eintracht Frankfurt 3-2.

YUGOSLAVIA: Partizan v. Radnicki 1-1; Dinamo Zagreb v. Red Star Belgrade 6-0; Vojvodina v. Rijeka 4-1; OFK Belgrade v. Olimpija 2-0; Radnicki Nis v. Vardar 2-1; Hajduk v. Sarajevo 1-0; Zeljeznicar v. Tresnjevka 3-1; Velez v. Zagreb 3-1.

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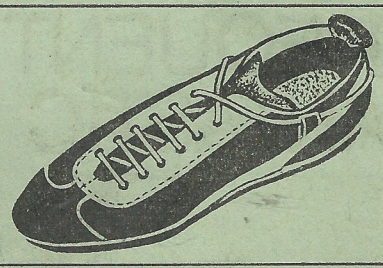

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SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

Theo Marmaras, president of South Melbourne-Hellas and an executive of the Australian Federation flew to Sydney last Sunday to assure ASF president W.G. Walkley that his club was not interested in any illegal moves to start a National League. Despite rumors and some newspaper reports, Hellas have no intention to join any rebel group and will only consider entering a national competition sponsored by the Australian Soccer Federation.

BARRY Parker, a 22-year-old forward who played four seasons for APIA in their second grade wants to get back into the game after 18 months of inactivity. Parker would like to join a second division club and is confident APIA will release him free of any fee. Parker can be reached at 7 Prospect Street, Leichhardt.

* * *

HORNSBY-North End, the newly-promoted second division club have 14 players in first and second grade who have been with the club since they were under-12s. All these players, who are either in their late teens or early twenties, have been nurtured by club secretary Eddy Partridge.

* * *

GARY King, Canterbury's brilliant young goalkeeper who was in the Sydney under-20 squad last season wants a transfer. He asked to be placed on the transfer list.

IT'S hard to understand why the Federation didn't proceed to draw the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup at halftime of last Sunday's APIA-Corinthians match at North Sydney Oval. The occasion would have been ideal to introduce some glamor into the series.

* * *

WESTERN United still need some players for their second division teams in both grades. Interested players should telephone club secretary Dick Lincoln at 635-6944 after 5 p.m.

* * *

TONY Nincevic, the former Yugal centre-forward, may join the Slavia club in Newcastle.

* * *

PRAGUE secretary George Warner left last Sunday for a three-week business trip to Japan.

* * *

CROATIA beat Canterbury 2-0 in a trial match last weekend. Croatia were without Ron Giles who had a toenail removed. The Australian international forward, however will be playing against Cumberland on Saturday at Erskineville Oval.

* * *

FULLONE Arce, the Argentinian forward who will soon join APIA, got married in Buenos Aires last week. His arrival will now be delayed while his wife awaits her entry visa to Australia.

* * *

NAME PLEASE!

Would the reader from Blacktown who sent a 45c postal note for the 1966 SW ANNUAL please contact us and give us his name and address as he failed to give any particulars and we cannot send him the publication.

PAN Hellenic suffered another blow last week when centre-half John Cole received a shoulder injury in a practice match against the club's reserve side. Cole entered hospital for an operation this week and will be out of action for at least five weeks. Ironically it's his probable replacement, Phil Mallard, who accidentally caused his injury.

* * *

HAKOAH are reported to have shown an interest in Cumberland's young right winger John Keddie.

* * *

POLONIA-NS have engaged the services of a special coach, C. Brady, for their juniors.

* * *

HARRY Noon's clearance from his Midlands League club in England is expected to reach Sydney in time to allow him to play at fullback for Corinthians against Yugal on Sunday.

* * *

MELITA Eagles are still very interested in buying Corinthians' free-scoring centre-forward Peter Barnes. Judging on their forward-line's pathetic display against South Coast last week they certainly could do with a recognized goalscorer.

* * *

WESTERN United will play their home matches at Francis Park, Blacktown, this season. They moved from Girraween Park because the out-of-the-way venue wasn't drawing big enough gates.

* * *

AT a special meeting last week APIA collected $4,500 from members for their clubhouse fund raising drive.

* * *

POLONIA officials this week vehemently denied rumors that their star half-back Ginter Gawlik may be transferred when he returns from Poland soon. "There would be a revolution in the club if we even contemplated such a move", Dr. Rossleigh, the club secretary said this week. "We can assure our supporters, Gawlik will always play for Polonia while he is in Australia".

A couple of errors crept up in our second division draw last week. In the third round Canterbury will play Wollongong Olympic at Arlington Oval, not at Seymour Shaw Park, and Polonia's match against Melita Eagles is not at Pennant Hills but at Drummoyne Oval. The Granville v. Hornsby-NE game is at Macarthur Park, not Balgownie.

* * *

THREE representatives from the Sydney Protestant Churches Association attended the council meeting of the Hunter District PCSFA at Cardiff last Monday. Twenty five delegates were in attendance and an all-age competition with eight teams was formed. Phil Bird is the Hunter District secretary. He can be contacted at Box 57, P.O., Cardiff, NSW.

* * *

A Melbourne report suggests that Pan Hellenic are negotiating with Croatia-Melbourne for Hammy McMeechan, their brilliant Australian international forward. The Scottish-born star gave some outstanding displays in the latter stages of last year's Southeast Asian tour.

PAN Hellenic beat a depleted Hakoah 3-2 in a trial match last Sunday at Wentworth Park.

* * *

JOHN van der Wall changed his mind in the last moment about joining Sutherland and returned "home" to Ryde SC. The former Sydney Austral star could lead his team into the first division of the Inter Suburban League.

* * *

CORINTHIANS' players are sporting a most original badge on their white shirts: a red lion above a black boomerang.

* * *

WESTERN United, the second division club, have signed on a centre-half from Auckland's Eastern Union first division club in New Zealand. He is Ian McIntosh, a Scotsman.

* * *

ST. George-Budapest's dress rehearsal for the competition was a dismal failure last Saturday when they lost 2-1 to Bankstown at Macarthur Park. Bankstown's goals were scored by Bamforth and Shepherd, Saints' by Sandell.

* * *

SYDNEY Austral had an impressive 3-0 win over Granville-AEK in a trial match last Sunday at Macarthur Park.

* * *

LUCKY Polonia! In North Sydney Oval they will have the best home ground in Sydney soccer. The centrally situated ground looked a picture last week and can accommodate some 1,000 spectators under cover in a large stand. Spectators have an unimpaired view of the playing field from anywhere in the ground and the large scoreboard also indicates the number of the goalscorers.

* * *

SUTHERLAND'S new goalkeeper is Benny Wlz from the Engadine Rovers junior team.

* * *

JOHN Galambos, the high-scoring Croatia forward may soon leave his club. He has not signed a new contract with the "Sydney millionaires" and can be transferred for the very modest sum of $1600—less than $100 dollars for each goal he scored last season.

* * *

A record number of teams will participate in this year's Protestant Churches competitions. The competitions will be divided in eight zones. Top teams this year are expected to be Revesby Methodist, Arncliffe Presbyterian and Auburn Churches. For information ring 59-8103 or write to GPO, Box 2994, Sydney.

* * *

YUGAL have signed Tibor Magyar from St. George. The young Hungarian will probably play at inside-right on Sunday against Corinthians at Marks Field.

* * *

ANDREW Vass, the Canterbury secretary, has left for a three-week holiday to Greece. Norm Martin, the Berries' team manager is also on holidays—at Norfolk Island.

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POSTMORTEM

Arsenal and England speed may return

— *hopes* DANNY CLAPTON —

From marble halls to wooden huts — that's how one could describe Corinthians' right winger Danny Clapton's move to Australia.

The contrast between Arsenal's home ground and Trumper Park or Drummoyne Oval is pretty startling.

Anyone who has had the opportunity to visit Highbury (yours truly has) could hardly believe one was entering a football stadium.

It's something out of this world.

And that could be the reason why Clapton is finding it so hard to reproduce his old form.

Last Sunday, however, he was still optimistic he would soon find touch.

"Give me a few more matches in first division and my game will improve", Clapton said after Corinthians had been beaten 6-1 by APIA at North Sydney Oval.

"We were given a real football lesson by APIA.

"APIA play very high standard soccer for part-timers.

"If they were fully professional, they would hold their own with most third and fourth division sides in the U.K.", he said.

Clapton was spotted by Arsenal scouts while playing for Leytonstone and was promtly signed on for $20.

He was with the "Gunners" for 10 years and played more than 400 times in the first team.

He also achieved what most players in England strive for —a full International cap.

And for many years he held the sprint record round the Highbury track as he was clearly the fastest player at Arsenal.

No wonder Arsenal gave him a big benefit match before he left for Luton Town.

Luton was his last club before he migrated to Australia 18 months ago with his family.

Danny and his wife love it here.

"I've always been lucky to find a happy dressingroom wherever I have gone, and Corinthians have the spirit despite the experts' tips that we won't do well in first division.

"But with the confidence coach Frank Broome is instilling in the players, I believe Corinthians can stay in top company", Clapton added hopefully.

—EINAR PERSEN

Smalltalk

A Melbourne soccer publication last week ran a full-page story on how Uruguay won the 1934 World Cup. As the whole piece was laboriously copied out from a book called "World Cup" by Brian Granville and Jerry Weinstein, it's pretty hard to understand the goof. Because, as all OUR readers know, the 1934 World Cup was really won by Italy.

Hakoah coach Tiko Jelisavcic last week displayed sportmanship preciously rare nowadays: he took Pan Hellenic winger Roy Blitz to a "physiotherapist"-magician who has a great record of curing many chronic complaints by deftly manipulating the muscles and the bones. Actually, he is an Italian tomato farmer at Liverpool. Green fingers?

St. George-Budapest have spread over 6,000 leaflets in their district publicising Sunday's season opener with APIA. Another praiseworthy innovation: to many VIPs they sent gold-lettered, elegant invitations for the match.

Witnessed with sympathy: last Friday a cop booking a member of the NSW management committee for walking through red light in Market Street. Just above them hung a big sign advertising sweets: "Happy Easter."

Another management committee member, another strange mishap: Walter Sternberg was scheduled to leave for Europe last Saturday — but his ticket was stolen, lost or misplaced. He couldn't take off until three days later, much to the disappointment of those who had gone to Mascot to farewell him.

Last week, Friday, a rumor swept Sydney: Hakoah and Pan Hellenic are "breaking away" from the Federation to form a league with some Melbourne and Adelaide counterparts. Phones rang all day, reporters were trying to verify an alleged announcement, even a press conference was called. Then it dawned on somebody: April One . . .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rates are 20c for each five words. When sending an item for inclusion, please count the words and attach the fee in postal note, cheque or unused Australian postage stamps. Items in boxes are 50c extra.

PLAYERS wanted to play in new metropolitan soccer league. Ring W. Charr 68-4083 between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m.

GOLD Coast Soccer Club (Surfers Paradise) Amateurs seek some players. Get in touch with D. Chalmers, 2 Kate St., Southport (Qld.) or H. Liepold, 24 Parneno St., Chevron Island, Surfers Paradise (Queensland).

FOR the opening of the soccer season Polonia-NS will stage a ball at Ashfield Town Hall on Saturday, April 16.

NORTHERN Suburbs Soccer Club will celebrate "The Northern Suburbs Derby" between Polonia-NS and Hornsby-NE on April 10 with a social evening at their premises, 92 Arthur St., North Sydney.

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"Break" rumors follow shock vote on League debate

Last week's NSW Council meeting, expected to be a very heated affair, fizzled out to a rather luke-warm glow.

— By RICK BRUCE —

The Council overwhelmingly decided to shelve the proposed National League for an indefinite period.

Only two of the 22 first and second division clubs represented on the Council voted against shelving the plan.

The clubs were Hakoah and Pan Hellenic.

Both Sam Fiszman (Hakoah) and Andrew Carr (Pan Hellenic) spoke in favor of the League.

Many other delegates spoke in support of the Management Committee's recommendation to drop the League project.

They included Ben Dunnett (Sydney Austral) and Andy Burton (Canterbury),

Andy Burton said that after being "kicked" around for over two years, the idea of the "super league" was no more concrete now, than when it was instigated.

SANE ADVICE

Ron Casey, the NSW Federation's publicity officer, probably gave the sanest piece of advice all night, when he said:

"I am not in a position to say whether the idea of a National League is a good one or not.

"Whether we are ready for it or not, I am certainly not qualified to say, but I do suggest very strongly that you make a decision one way or the other and then get on with the job at hand.

"The proposed 'super league' has received so much publicity over the past two years that most people feel the present competition is just marking time till the 'big time' comes along.

"I believe this type of publicity has done us much harm over the last two years.

"If you want a National League, for heavens' sake get cracking on it; if not, let's get back to the job in front of us", Casey added.

When the recommendation was put to the vote in the form of a motion, the result was 21 votes to 4 in favor of accepting the Management Committee's recommendation and shelving the proposed plan.

As soon as the votes were counted, some delegates began to threaten breakaways.

One club delegate said openly that a breakaway was a "distinct possibility".

It is quite feasible that one or two "rebel" NSW clubs may join with a few Victorian clubs and start their own league.

Such a move, however, would be doomed to failure.

Now that the NSW Council has decided to reject the plan, it is most unlikely that Queensland, Sth. Australia or Nth. NSW would accept it.

So any breakaway clubs would be confined to a NSW-Victoria competition, which would probably develop into a dreary and costly affair.

The Council spent one and a half hour discussing the recommendation, before finally accepting it.

TEN QUESTIONS

The recommendation accepted by the Council said that the National League blueprint submitted by the ASF sub-committee had failed to present an acceptable format for the League's implementation.

The NSW Management Committee felt the following 10 questions had to be answered to everybody's satisfaction before such a League could ever be seriously considered:

☆ What method would be used to select the initial clubs to form the National League?

☆ What was the envisaged position of the clubs that did not make the National League?

☆ Where were the National League games to be played?

☆ What effect would the National League games have on State competitions or finances?

☆ What was the method of and requirements for promotion to the National League and what as regards relegation?

☆ Should a budget be produced as regards anticipated income expenditure, distribution of profits, suggested responsibility for expenditure, etc.?

☆ Names of teams — national or otherwise?

☆ Distribution of tour profits between the ASF, the States and the National League?

☆ What voting power would National League teams have in the ASF and the State bodies if in membership with both?

☆ What would be the minimum club administration structure required for a club in membership with the National League and the State competition?

The Management Committee and Council seem to have made a wise decision — possibly the only correct decision.

The National League looks good on paper but its implementation is undoubtedly many years away.

SOCCER GROWTH ROSY IN HIGH SCHOOLS

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Combined High Schools soccer should have another big year in 1966.

In Sydney in 1965, 98 high schools fielded 436 inter-school teams, an increase of 36 teams over 1964.

Soccer was played in 15 zones, Rugby League in 11 and Rugby Union in seven and the two rugby codes are expected to lose further ground this year.

Rugby Union people often regard their game as the "main" game.

Yet only 39 schools competed as against soccer's 98, and their teams dropped away from 294 to 283.

Rugby League had 367 teams.

Whilst soccer figures are outstanding, there are many zones where much more soccer will be played as soon as the artificial restrictions on the number of grades played are broken.

The City of Sydney zone had 40 teams, an area where soccer was once "not quite right".

There are some anomalies to be overcome.

North Sydney Tech. High did not compete in soccer — why?

Country soccer is also improving.

Far North Coast, Illawarra, Newcastle and Central Coast progress is extending.

But what of Canberra?

Here the ACT convenor prides himself on the "wide variety" of sports interests for the boys.

Yet Rugby Union is the only code permitted!

Looks like the time has come for some soccer schoolmasters to start banging a drum.

Far North Coast needs to add inter-school competition to house games to improve standards.

A total of 42 teams played in the Tasman Cup, with 10 from the country.

Perhaps some of the soccer social clubs could donate to their local C.H.S. zone soccer funds.

This would give support to the insufficient contribution made from soccer resources.

NSW FEDERATION ACTS ON "REBEL" CHIEFS

The age-old disease of Sydney soccer — threat of yet another breakaway — has once again become a possibility.

A breakaway is really a last desperate step by a club or clubs who feel that under the existing administration they cannot serve soccer.

Is this the case now?

Hardly. Whatever the problems of Sydney soccer—and it certainly has some—another rebellion would only make things worse.

Maybe the present administration could be improved a great deal—but it is extremely doubtful if this could be done through force.

According to reliable information we have on this, the purpose of the breakaway would be to form an independent inter-state league based on some Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide clubs.

Such a move would certainly fail.

It could not rely on the support of several major clubs, the ASF, the State Federations or even the Press.

They would have countless headaches with referees and venues.

This would be the case of a malcontent minority fighting a relatively strong majority, with predictable results.

Soccer in Australia at present cannot afford the luxury of a rebellion, a split or a breakaway.

In fact, it will take some very hard work, astuteness and a combined effort to halt the game's decline.

The NSW Federation gained the admiration of the majority of clubs and fans by showing a firm hand in dealing with those responsible for the clandestine moves in favor of a national league.

Last Tuesday night the management committee suspended commiteeman Walter Sternberg, a prime instigator for the national league.

The management committee also cited its own president, Ben Nathan, to appear before the committee to show cause why he should not be suspended.

The committee gave no reason for citing Nathan.

At press time the outcome of this meeting was not yet known.

BACK TO SENDER, ADRESS UNKNOWN

A Melbourne soccer publication last week made several ludicrous claims about themselves.

They also attacked the ASF, accusing them of maladministration, hypocrisy, arrogance and other things.

Here are two disclaimers by people concerned:

Neill is nil

Who really writes those letters to the editor in the Melbourne soccer paper?

In last week's issue they published a letter from J.O. Neill, secretary of Western Utd. S.C. (Sydney), asking for information about their paper.

The facts are these: Western United's secretary is Dick Lincoln, not J.O. Neill.

"We have many registered club members and neither among them nor among our executives have we one called Neill," he said this week.

"I certainly never wrote them and resent the fact that they used our club's name for planting a fictitious letter in their pages."

News is loose

A columnist of the Melbourne soccer paper last week fiercely tore into the Australian Soccer Federation, Sydney clubs and leading Sydney officials.

He accused them of "fragrant hypocrisy, inbuilt arrogance, abysmal ignorance" and called them "Sydney's soccer commissars and sawdust Caesars."

Further in the "story" the writer accused the ASF executives of financial mismanagement.

We asked ASF vice-president Jim Bayutti to comment.

"I can't," he said.

"I never read that paper.

"I only read the Sydney dailies, **Soccer World** and La Fiamma."

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